AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

LISTING OF CLAIMS:

Claim 1 (Currently Amended) A method of managing a secure terminal used for transactions with smart cards, comprising:

~~placing~~ detecting placement of a smart card in contact with the terminal,

executing a program by the terminal, ~~this~~ said program including sensitive operations related to making the transactions secure,

counting, externally of the smart card, the number of times a request is made to the terminal to execute sensitive operations, and

restricting the action of ~~this~~ said terminal when ~~this count~~ the counted number reaches a predetermined value.

Claim 2 (Currently Amended) A method according to claim 1, further comprising:

providing the terminal with a removable electronic security circuit, and

wherein said counting step comprises counting in ~~this~~ said security circuit the number of requests for sensitive operations which are made to ~~it~~ said security circuit or sensitive operations executed by ~~it~~ said security circuit.

Claim 3 (Previously Presented) A method according to claim 1, further comprising:

dividing the sensitive operations into a number of classes, and

establishing a count for each class.

Claim 4 (Previously Presented) A method according to claim 1, further comprising:

as a sensitive operation, performing a mutual identification procedure

between the terminal and the card.

Claim 5 (Previously Presented) A method according to claim 1, further comprising:

as a sensitive operation, performing an authentication (PIN) of a carrier of the

smart card.

Claim 6 (Previously Presented) A method according to claim 1, further comprising:

as a sensitive operation, performing a verification of a certificate coming from

a smart card.

Claim 7 (Currently Amended) A method according to claim 1, ~~wherein the counter is~~

~~re-initialized~~ further including the step of re-initializing the counted number by a

secure procedure including a verification of a secret code by the terminal or ~~the~~ a

security circuit.

Claim 8 (Previously Presented) A method according to claim 7, wherein the secure procedure includes a verification of a secret code by the terminal or the security circuit.

Claim 9 (Previously Presented) A method according to claim 7, wherein the re-initialization is performed remotely by a master system.

Claim 10 (Currently Amended) A method according to claim 1, wherein the ~~counter~~ counted number is incremented after a successful sensitive operation.

Claim 11 (Currently Amended) A method according to claim 1, wherein for restricting, only ~~some of the~~ secure operations of the ~~planned transaction~~ executing program are prevented.

Claim 12 (Currently Amended) A security circuit for implementing the method according to claim 1, ~~wherein the~~ comprising management means that is capable of:

    identifying and counting requests coming from outside the security circuit, and

    restricting ~~its~~ functions of said security circuit as soon as the ~~count~~ counted

number reaches a predetermined number.

Claim 13 (Previously Presented) A method according to claim 2, further comprising:

    dividing the sensitive operations into a number of classes and

    establishing a count for each class.

Claim 14 (Previously Presented) A method according to claim 13, further comprising:

as a sensitive operation, performing a mutual identification procedure between the terminal and the card.

Claim 15 (Previously Presented) A method according to claim 14, further comprising:

as a sensitive operation, performing an authentication (PIN) of a carrier of the smart card.

Claim 16 (Previously Presented) A method according to claim 13, further comprising:

as a sensitive operation, performing a verification of a certificate coming from a smart card.

Claim 17 (Previously Presented) A method according to claim 13, wherein a counter is re-initialized by a secure procedure including a verification of a secret code by the terminal or the security circuit.

Claim 18 (Previously Presented) A method according to claim 17, wherein the secure procedure includes a verification of a secret code by the terminal or the security circuit.

Claim 19 (Previously Presented) A method according to claim 17, wherein the re-initialization is performed remotely by a master system.

Claim 20 (Previously Presented) A method according to claim 13, wherein a counter is incremented after a successful sensitive operation.

Claim 21 (Currently Amended) A method according to claim 13, wherein for restricting, only ~~some of the~~ secure operations of the ~~planned transaction~~ executing program are prevented.

Claim 22 (Currently Amended) A security circuit for implementing the method according to claim 13, ~~wherein the~~ comprising management means that is capable of:

identifying and counting requests coming from outside the security circuit, and restricting ~~its~~ functions of the security circuit as soon as ~~one of the counters~~ the counted number reaches a predetermined number.

Claim 23 (Previously Presented) A method according to claim 19, wherein a counter is incremented after a successful sensitive operation.

Claim 24 (Currently Amended) A method according to claim 19, wherein for restricting, only ~~some of the~~ secure operations of the ~~planned transaction~~ executing program are prevented.